

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently Amended) A battery storing device comprising: a battery storing section that can store a battery inside and has a heat retaining function of retaining heat of the battery that is stored inside using heat insulating material; and a heat retention releasing mechanism for releasing the heat retaining function,

wherein the heat retention releasing mechanism opens and closes an opening for making air flow between the inside and outside of the battery storing section.

2. (Original) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the heat insulating material is vacuum heat insulating material.

3. (Original) A battery storing device according to claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising an independent discharge circuit that is directly coupled to the battery and can operate discharge independently from the charge/discharge operation of a main circuit.

4. (Original) A battery storing device according to claim 3, wherein the independent discharge circuit has a heating resistor.

5. (Original) A battery storing device according to claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the independent discharge circuit has at least a PTC device.

6. (Currently Amended) A battery storing device according to ~~one of claim 3 to claim 5~~, further comprising: a temperature detector for detecting temperature inside the battery storing section; and a circuit control section for controlling the independent discharge circuit based on the temperature detected by the temperature detector.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A battery storing device according to ~~one of claim 1 to claim 6~~, wherein the heat retention releasing mechanism comprises: a heat conductor forming a heat conduction route for conducting heat between the inside and outside of the battery storing section; and a mechanism for opening and closing the heat conduction route.

9. (Currently Amended) A battery storing device according to ~~one of claim 1 to claim 8~~, further comprising: a temperature detector for detecting temperature inside the battery storing section; and a heat-retention release control section for controlling the heat retention releasing mechanism based on the temperature detected by the temperature detector.

10. (Currently Amended) A battery storing device according to ~~one of claim 1 to claim 9~~, wherein the battery is a lithium secondary battery.

11. (Currently Amended) A power supply device comprising: a battery storing device according to ~~one of claim 1 to claim 10~~; and a battery stored in the battery storing device.

12. (Original) An electric vehicle comprising: a power supply device according to claim 11; and an electrically driven mechanism for being driven by power supply from the power supply device.